

**Public Health and Medical Services
Emergency Support Function #8
Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan**

LEAD AGENCY: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

SUPPORT AGENCIES: Supporting State Departments: Agriculture; Education; Healthcare Policy and Financing; Higher Education; Human Services; Law; Local Affairs; Military and Veteran Affairs; Personnel and Administration; Public Safety; Regulatory Agencies; Transportation; Volunteer of America, Red Cross, Salvation Army, professional associations, and the private sector.

I PURPOSE

Emergency Support Function #8 – Public Health and Medical is responsible for supporting the public health and medical needs of local government for victims of an incident, whether natural or man-made, including response to an emergency epidemic.

II SCOPE

The scope of ESF #8 identifies and outlines the areas of support to local public health, Indian tribal nations and healthcare facilities providing care to victims of an incident. This will encompass human health surveillance, intervention and control; environmental health assessment and technical support; and, medical care resource evaluation of hospital beds, EMS transport and pharmaceuticals. Supplemental assistance occurs for:

- A. Emergency epidemics or the threat of an emergency epidemic
- B. Disease surveillance, intervention or control
- C. Chemical, biological and radiological analysis with technical support for the control of exposure to hazardous materials related to water quality, air pollution or food
- D. Medical care surge support for personnel, medical equipment and supplies (via the Strategic National Stockpile) and mass casualty response planning

III POLICIES

- A. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is the lead Department for coordinating ESF #8 preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation activities. This department is committed to protecting and preserving the health and environment of the people of

Colorado.

- B. The Executive Director of CDPHE has the responsibility of activating this department to coordinate all ESF #8 response actions consistent with the CDPHE's internal policies, procedures and emergency response plan.

IV PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

Actions carried out by ESF #8 are grouped into the four phases of emergency management: preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery. Each phase requires specific skills and knowledge to accomplish and requires significant cooperation and collaboration between all supporting agencies and the intended recipients of service. This Emergency Support Function encompasses a full range of activities from education to the provision of field services. It also functions as a coordinator and, at times, assumes direct operational control or provided services. The following services provide the framework upon which actions will occur:

A. Human Health

1. Biological Agent and Laboratory Diagnostics
2. Disease Surveillance and Outbreak Management
3. Disease Prevention and Mass Prophylaxis
4. Emergency Medical Services and Medical Transport
5. Healthcare Facilities and Alternative (Surge) Care Sites
6. Mass Fatality and Death Certificates
7. Pharmaceuticals and Strategic National Stockpile Reception

B. Environment

1. Air Quality Analysis and Reporting
2. Chemical Hazard Spills and Response
3. Environmental Assessment and Laboratory Diagnostics
4. Food and Drug Quality and Protection
5. Hazardous and Solid Waste Identification and Disposal
6. Radiological Hazards – Stationary and Mobile sources
7. Vector and Vector borne Disease Control
8. Water Supplies and Treatment Facilities and Waterways

C. Preparedness Actions

1. Actions and activities that develop health and medical response capabilities may include planning, training, orientation sessions, and exercises for ESF #8 (i.e., State, Region, and County). Such activities will include:

- a. Updating public information guides for public health hazards
 - b. Guiding local planning for pandemic response mass prophylaxis clinics
 - c. Developing and implementing mass casualty planning and response exercises with local partners
 - d. Providing guidelines for mass fatality incidents
 - e. Tracking and training medical and public health volunteers
 - f. Training of dispatch and hospital emergency departments on web-based communication tools for emergency department capabilities for emergency response and inpatient bed tracking.
2. Actions and activities that develop environmental health response capabilities may include planning, training, and orientation for ESF #8 (i.e., State, Region, and County). Such activities include:
- a. Training on the reporting procedures for local responders of hazardous materials incidents, particularly when waterways, chemical plumes or domestic food supplies are involved
 - b. Providing guidance and technical support for exercises involving radioactive material
 - c. Interacting with local response training or events involving laboratory diagnostic support of environmental sampling, particularly related to terrorism threats involving biological agents

D. Prevention Actions

- 1. Geographical Information System (GIS) maps of acute care hospitals, assisted living facilities, food processing plants, waterways and water supply facilities
- 2. Databases of regulated facilities, including hospitals, food warehouses, water treatment facilities and facilities with hazardous materials
- 3. Communication system with hospitals and local public health agencies for health alerts and information exchange during events

E. Response Actions

Coordinate operations of the ESF #8. CDPHE will consult with the appropriate organizations to determine the need for support in the following areas:

1. Assessment of public health and medical needs associated with disease outbreaks, environmental contaminants and healthcare system infrastructure
2. Health surveillance of exposures, disease cases or injuries
3. Medical care personnel capacity and capabilities
4. Health/Medical equipment and supplies requests, and reception and distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS)
5. Technical assistance Patient evacuation coordination planning
6. Patient care support planning for inpatient hospital care and outpatient services to victims who are seriously ill or injured.
7. Safety and security of human drugs, biologics, medical devices and veterinary drugs, etc. that are regulated by CDPHE
8. Blood and blood products availability monitoring
9. Safety and security of food products intended for human consumption, including integrity of packaging and temperature
10. Coordinate and collaborate with agriculture safety and security activity as related to animals, animal feed and therapeutics intended for human consumption
11. Guidance to responder safety related to exposures to infectious diseases, chemical or radiologic agents
12. Assess exposures of the general population and high risk populations
13. Coordinate with the Department of Human Services, Mental Health Services as the lead agency for behavioral health care during emergency events
14. Provide public health, disease, and injury prevention information for the general public who are located in or near areas affected

15. Assist in the assessment of the threat for vector-borne diseases
16. Coordinate with ESF #3 – Public Works and Engineering, and ESF #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response, in assessing potable water, waste water, solid waste disposal and other environmental health situations
17. Provide technical support for mass fatality and the death certificate process

F. Recovery Actions

Maintain Support of the Disaster Field Office during recovery for the following:

1. Disease Surveillance – Monitor for vector borne and zoonotic diseases, water borne, airborne and human-to-human disease transmission; provide technical support for intervention and control measures (which may include public information)
2. Food Safety – Technical support and regulatory monitoring of food intended for human consumption. This includes: food preparation facilities, food storage and warehousing facilities and dairy farms
3. Health Facility and EMS Care – Monitoring the status of bed capacity, facility capabilities and supplies; provide technical support for re-establishing standard operations
4. Water Quality - Technical support and laboratory diagnostics for re-establishing safe drinking water and proper wastewater disposal
5. Waste Disposal – Technical support and regulatory monitoring for the assessment and proper disposal of solid and hazardous waste

V CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

ORGANIZATION

General

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) coordinate ESF #8, when activated. Once activated, the headquarters will be established at CDPHE and activities are coordinated through the department's emergency operation center. During the initial activation, CDPHE will convene communication with local and tribal governments requesting State support to

discuss the situation and determine the appropriate response actions.

A. State

1. ESF #8 is organized in the Incident Command System format in order to assure a timely and appropriate response to an emergency/disaster situation for public health and medical assessments, planning, and support operations to the SEOC, regional coordinators, and local management of the event.
2. Procedural protocols and manuals governing staff operations are in place to enhance effectiveness. Public health and medical subject matter experts are consulted as needed; this includes the Governor's Expert Emergency Epidemic Response Committee (GEEERC) as defined in 24-32-2104(III)(d), CRS for major health threats constituting a potential or actual emergency epidemic.
3. In a large event requiring federal or mutual aid assistance, ESF #8 will work with counterparts from such entities to seek, plan, and direct use of those assets.
4. Throughout the response and recovery periods, ESF #8 will evaluate and analyze information related to: medical, health, and public health assistance requests; develop and update assessments of medical and public health status in the impact area; and, perform contingency planning to meet anticipated demands.

B. Regional

1. Regional staff may act as the initial point of contact for the lead agency and provide informational assistance until appropriate representatives arrive.
2. ESF #8 functions may be fulfilled by either a local public or environmental health agency or the Department of Public Health and Environment based on the jurisdiction and the anticipated tasks.

C. Local

Each county has an ESF #8 lead. The State will coordinate with the local lead and may designate a senior official to participate with the local entities requesting support at the field level. Communication will be maintained via radio, internet or other mechanism set up at the local level for the duration of the incident.

Organizational Responsibilities

A. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

1. CDPHE enhances staffing immediately upon notification of activation for the potential or actual public health or medical emergency. The staff will support both the activities of the CDPHE department operations center and the request for support. CDPHE will consult with the appropriate organizations to determine the need for support according to the functional areas listed below:
 - a. **Health Surveillance:** CDPHE, in coordination with other State and local agencies, will enhance existing surveillance systems to monitor the health of the general population and special high-risk populations, carry out field studies and investigations, monitor injury and disease patterns and potential disease outbreaks, and provide technical assistance and consultations on disease and injury prevention and precaution.
 - b. **Medical Personnel:** CDPHE initiates the pre-registration and confirmation of medical volunteers credentials to support public health and medical activities at the local level. Coordination occurs with the local and regional public health and medical volunteer systems.
 - c. **Medical Equipment and Supplies:** CDPHE requests, receives and distributes the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) for the state to provide medical equipment and supplies, including pharmaceutical and diagnostic materials, to jurisdictions in need.
 - d. **Patient Evacuation:** CDPHE may assist in coordinating the evacuation of patients to locations where hospital care is available. This may include coordinating the transfer of patients to the National Disaster Medical System.
 - e. **Safety and Security of Human Drugs, Biologics, Medical Devices:** CDPHE may review and respond to the concerns for the safety and security of human drugs, biologics, medical devices, and other products regulated by CDPHE.
 - f. **Food Safety and Security:** CDPHE may assess the safety and security of food products intended for human consumption, including integrity of packaging and temperature.

- g. Public Health Technical Assistance and Support:**
CDPHE will assist in the assessment of public health effects resulting from chemical, biological or radioactive agents. Such tasks may include assessing exposures of the general population and high risk populations; conducting field investigations, including collecting and analyzing relevant samples; and providing advice on protective actions related to direct and indirect exposures.
- h. Potable Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Disposal:**
CDPHE, in coordination with ESF #3 – Public Works and Engineering, and ESF #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response as appropriate, may assist in assessing potable water, waste water, solid waste disposal and other environmental health situations. This may include: conducting field investigations and laboratory analysis of relevant samples; providing technical assistance and consultation on potable water, wastewater and solid waste disposal issues.
- i. Mass Fatality and Mortuary Services:** CDPHE will provide technical support for mass fatality and the death certificate process during mass fatality events. This may include processing, preparation and disposition of remains and the timely issuance of death certificates for mass fatality events.

B. Department of Agriculture

- 1. Provide veterinary animal feed inspection and livestock disease surveillance
- 2. Work closely with CDPHE in potential or actual zoonotic-human disease outbreaks of significance. This will include:

 - a. Intelligence information sharing
 - b. Response operations for intervention and control measures
 - c. Communication of risks and control measures for food products potentially contaminated and prepared for human consumption
- 3. Coordinate with CDPHE when irrigation waters or air may be contaminated and a potential threat to livestock, farming crops or human exposures

C. Department of Health Care, Policy and Finance

Coordinate with the CDPHE on Medicaid and Medicare issues related to pre-existing medical conditions of victims and for primary care that is not emergent care during response and recovery phases

D. American Red Cross

Coordinate disease surveillance, food safety and child care set-ups with state or local public health agencies related to Red Cross victim housing facilities

E. Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Affairs

1. Identify possible resources for deployment that may support public health or medical operation needs. This may include:
 - a. Transportation-logistics requests (ground and air) for patient movement or patient evacuation
 - b. Security of medical facilities or transport of supplies
 - c. Mass fatality response (recovery and transport)

F. Department of Public Safety

1. Provide general security for:
 - a. Patient staging or evacuation points
 - b. Mass prophylaxis site control
 - c. Strategic National Stockpile reception and distribution
2. Provide assistance in the rapid transportation of samples for analysis
 - a. Share intelligence information as appropriate during events
 - b. Supply supporting agency aircraft to the CDPHE as needed

G. Colorado Coroners Association

1. Implement mass fatality plans
 - a. Body recovery
 - b. Proper handling of potentially contaminated bodies
 - c. Proper burial procedures for conditions
2. Assist with timely death certificate issuance

H. Department of Human Services

1. Act as the lead agency for mental health support to victims and first responders
2. Oversee mental health response teams
3. Implement procedures to support mental health care particularly:
 - a. Medication for the treatment of existing or new conditions of victims
 - b. Hospital inpatient care

IV. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The ESF #8 will work with the State logistics Section for the procurement of resources that CDPHE does not have, who will report such finances directly to the Finance Section of the SEOC. CDPHE will report financial matters related to existing resources procured during the event to the Finance Section of the SEOC. During a response, CDPHE will record and track its own expenditures and seek reimbursement from the appropriate resource after the event.

All requests for resources given the ESF #8 will be processed in accordance with CDPHE policy and protocols established by the State Emergency Operation Center.

Other Support Agencies

The Department of Public Health and Environment Coordinating Office shall encourage all supporting agencies to establish effective financial disaster response systems internally and share with them all directives received from the Division of Emergency Management, the Federal Emergency Management Agency or other sources.

VII. APPENDICES, ATTACHMENTS, ENCLOSURES

CDPHE defines annexes, appendixes, and attachments to this document as to further refine or define: roles and responsibilities; procedures; policies; specific subjects that might require different procedures, etc.

1. Strategic National Stockpile Plan